

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION

SHANNON BLANE SESSUMS	§	
VS.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:15cv427
DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID	§	

MEMORANDUM OPINION REGARDING TRANSFER

Petitioner Shannon Blane Sessums, an inmate confined at the Robertson Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, proceeding *pro se*, brings this petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

The above-styled action was referred to the undersigned magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636 and the Local Rules for the Assignment of Duties to the United States Magistrate Judge for findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for the disposition of the case.

Discussion

On January 16, 2014, in the 6th Judicial District Court for Red River County, Texas, petitioner was convicted of tampering with physical evidence. Petitioner was sentenced to a term of eight years' imprisonment. Petitioner brings this petition asserting the following grounds: (1) He is actually innocent, (2) he was denied due process with regard to jury selection, and (3) he was denied the effective assistance of counsel.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d), a petitioner may bring his petition for writ of habeas corpus in the district court for the district wherein such person is in custody or in the district court for the district within which he was convicted. Section 2241(d) further provides that the district court in the exercise of its discretion may transfer the action to the other district in the furtherance of justice.

Petitioner was convicted and sentenced in Red River County which is located in the Texarkana Division of the Eastern District of Texas. Thus, jurisdiction is proper in the Eastern District of Texas. The petition, however, has been inadvertently filed in the Beaumont Division instead of the Texarkana Division.

While jurisdiction is proper in the Eastern District of Texas, the court has considered the circumstances and has determined that the interest of justice would best be served if this petition were transferred to the division in which the petitioner was convicted.

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a), for the convenience of parties and witnesses and in the interest of justice, a district court may transfer any civil action to any other district or division where it could have been brought. Such a transfer may be done *sua sponte* and is reviewable only for an abuse of discretion. *Mills v. Beech Aircraft Corp.*, 886 F.2d 758, 761 (5th Cir. 1989).

Since petitioner complains of a conviction which occurred in the Texarkana Division, all records and witnesses involving this action most likely will be located in the Texarkana Division. Thus, the transfer of this action to such division would further justice. Therefore, it is the opinion of the undersigned that this petition should be transferred to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Texarkana Division. An Order of Transfer so providing shall be entered in accordance with this Memorandum Opinion.

SIGNED this 6 day of November, 2015.



KEITH F. GIBLIN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE